



Representative
Tami Green

Mid-Session Update

28th District

Dear neighbors,

How can we make this a better place for you to live, work and raise a family? How can we build a better Washington for our children and grandchildren?

The answer is easy:

- * Better schools,
- * Better jobs, and
- * Better health care.

I am committed to breaking through partisan gridlock in Olympia to pass common-sense reforms.

The citizens of Washington State want us to be partners, not partisans. It is time to get to work, serving people, not political parties.

I'm interested in what you think – and in your family's experiences with these three issues.

Thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as your representative to the Legislature. As always, I welcome your ideas, comments and questions.

Sincerely,

Representative Tami Green



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Honoring our Soldiers

Having been raised in an active duty family I understand first hand the hardships our soldiers and families must endure during a time of war. One of my top priorities in Olympia is to make sure the State does everything it can to help those who serve our Country. In one of my first acts as a legislator I co-sponsored a resolution to honor the Washington National Guard. I wish to thank them for their daily sacrifices and continued vigilance in protecting our freedoms at home and abroad. I continued my commitment to those who serve by authoring House Bill 1509 which would offer a property tax exemption to widows or widowers of honorably discharged veterans.

Other legislation that I have co-sponsored would:

- Provide a property tax exemption to veterans with severe disabilities. (HB 1019)
- Credit military service to certain employees. (HB 1522)
- Waive tuition increases for veterans of the global war on terrorism. (HB 1552)

Military families have long been an important and welcome addition to our community. They have provided so much to our lives. That's why I will always be an advocate on their behalf.



What have I been working on?

The legislative session has gotten off to a fast start and I have been working hard on many pieces of legislation. I feel that the bills that I have sponsored reflect the values of the 28th district. Here is a snapshot of what has happened in the first half of this year's legislative session.

- **Prescription drugs** (House Bills 1168, 1194 & 1316): These three bills seek to lower healthcare costs by allowing the State and private citizens to obtain cheaper prescription drugs from Canadian pharmacies. Currently Washington citizens can pay up to 80 % more for an identical prescription. All of these bills, which I was proud to support have passed the House and are now in the Senate.
- **Public Works Trust Fund** (House Bill 1049): This was the first bill that I sponsored in the legislature. It authorizes loans to local governments for infrastructure improvements. The department of Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED) estimates that 6,000 new construction jobs and over \$620 million dollars in economic activity will be generated as a result of this legislation. Included in this bill is money for a local sewer project in DuPont. It has passed the House and is now in the Senate.
- **Simple Majority** (HJR 4205): Finding funding for our schools has become increasingly difficult. This legislation would eliminate the current 60 percent supermajority requirement first approved in 1932 to pass a school levy. Should it pass the Legislature this year, the decision to amend the state Constitution would go before voters in November.
- **Performance Audits** (House Bill 1048): This measure requires independent performance audits of all state agencies and operations. It is vital that we spend tax dollars more efficiently and work to restore trust in government.

Please visit my website at <http://hdc.leg.wa.gov/members/green/> to see a complete list of legislation I have sponsored.

Community Alert

I need your help to stop the location of violent offenders at Western State Hospital

The Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) recently announced that it will be closing the Tacoma Pre-Release facility currently located on the grounds of Western State Hospital as of April 15, 2005 and replace it with a privately contracted work release program called Progress House.

The Tacoma Pre-Release Program is comprised of 140 low risk women offenders. These offenders have the opportunity to work on the grounds of the hospital and in the community under escort. Progress House is comprised of 69 male and 6 female high-risk offenders who are allowed in the community, unescorted as long as they check in with a DOC supervisor.

Currently there are 4 schools and 2 day care centers that lie within a 1 mile radius of Western State Hospital.

I have introduced HB 1614 which would ban the Department of Corrections from locating any program that serves violent offenders on the grounds of state hospitals.

On February 12th I had a town hall to raise public awareness and to demand full disclosure and public input into this process.



Escapes and New Offenses in Work Release and Pre-Release in Pierce County

Inmates in the Tacoma Pre-Release are under considerably more strict supervision than inmates in the work facilities in Pierce County. The following shows the approximate number of inmates (duplicated count) through work release and pre-release in Pierce County between 1998 and 2002, along with numbers of escapes and new offenses.

Roughly 6 % of inmates in Progress House, Lincoln Park and Rap House escaped while in the facility, as was true of less than 1 % of inmates at the Tacoma Pre-Release during this 5-year period.

Escapes and New Offenses in Pre-Release and Work Release in Pierce County 1998 through 2002

Facility	Offenders*	Escapes	Returns	New Offenses	
				Escape	Other
Tacoma Pre-Release	2,345	5	5	2	0
Progress House	1,335	71	66	23	19
Lincoln Park	225	12	10	3	2
Rap House	475	29	25	4	1

* Number of offenders is approximate.

Source: Washington State Department of Corrections.

Town Hall Meeting

What do you think? I will be having two town halls to hear your concerns.

Saturday, March 19th

Lakewood City hall

2:30pm to 3:30pm

In the Lakewood Towne Center
6000 Main Street SW, Lakewood

Saturday, March 26th

University Place Senior Center

10am to 11am

2534 Grandview Dr. W, University Place

Brown Bag Lunch: March 22nd from 12-1pm in HHR D with a tour of the capitol to follow. Bring a lunch, dessert provided. RSVP to 360-786-7958

Budget:

Making tough choices to protect families

As of early February, it is estimated that we will need just over \$2 billion just to maintain existing programs and services. This means we will have to take a tough look at all programs and services to see where the State can save money.

Yes, there will be cuts to the state budget — and people all over the state will feel the effects. But I won't stand for our district taking an unfair burden of the cuts.

Any new budget I ultimately support must:

- Give young people the opportunity to succeed.
- Support working families.
- Let seniors have the resources they need to live comfortably.

I will work hard to ensure that families in the 28th district have the opportunities they need to succeed.



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